

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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C O R R E C T E D COPY (FOR TAGS AND SUBJ INFO PREVIOUSLY OMITTED)

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJ: PRAVDA ON THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST CONFERENCE

1. THE AUTHORITATIVE UNSIGNED PRAVDA COMMENTARY OF
OCTOBER 30, WHICH IS SO FAR THE ONLY MAJOR SOVIET STATE-
MENT ON THE OCTOBER 16-18 WARSAW CONSULTATIVE MEETING,
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SEEMS DESIGNED TO EMPHASIZE THE COLLEGIAL ASPECTS OF THE

SOVIET POSITION WITHOUT COMPROMISING MOSCOW'S BASIC DESIRE TO USE THE MEETING TO ENHANCE ITS CONTROL OVER THE EUROPEAN PARTIES.

2. THE PRAVDA ARTICLE FOLLOWS THE PONOMAREV SPEECH IN WARSAW IN EXPATIATING ON THE ROLE PLAYED BY DETENTE IN CREATING CONDITIONS FOR SUCH SOCIALIST VICTORIES AS THE COUPS IN GREECE AND PORTUGAL. IT ALSO PAYS DUE REGARD, AS PONOMAREV DID, TO THE DANGERS OF RIGHT-WING REACTON AND TO THE MACHINATIONS OF MONOPOLY CAPITALISTS AND OTHER SUPPORTERS OF THE ARMS RACE. CURIOUSLY, PRAVDA DOES NOT REPEAT PONOMAREV'S EXTENSIVE REMARKS ABOUT THE CRISIS OF CAPITALISM.

3. ON THE VELVET-GLOVE SIDE, THE PRAVDA PIECE GOES TO GREAT EFFORT TO KNOCK DOWN WESTERN PRESS REPORTS OF DISSENSION WITHIN THE COMMUNIST RANKS. IT DISPUTES ALLEGATIONS THAT THE SOVIET DETENTE LINE IS BEING CRITICIZED BY FELLOW PARTIES; THAT THERE IS A LARGE-SMALL, WEST-EAST, OR LEFT-RIGHT SPLIT IN THE MOVEMENT; AND THAT THE PRINCIPLES OF INDEPENDENCE AND NON-INTERFERENCE ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED AGAINST THE WILL OF THE BIG PARTIES. PRAVDA ALSO TURNS A BENIGN FACE TO UNITED-FRONT CONCEPTS, NOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION OF ALL LEFT-WING, DEMOCRATIC, AND PEACE FORCES AND CITING THE SUCCESSES ACHIEVED BY UNITED FRONT TACTICS IN FRANCE, ITALY, AND ELSEWHERE.

4. ON THE PRICKLIER QUESTION OF COMMUNIST UNITY, PRAVDA ALSO AFFECTS A BROAD-MINDED APPROACH. IT QUOTES THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES IN PREPARING THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE AND SAYS THAT THE CPSU IS ALSO FOR THAT. IT RECOGNIZES THAT EUROPEAN PARTIES OPERATE IN DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS AND MUST THEREFORE TREAT PROBLEMS IN DIFFERENT WAYS -- IN EFFECT REPEATING THE COMPROMISE THE CPSU REACHED WITH THE SPANISH PARTY IN MOSCO JUST BEFORE THE WARSAW MEETING. IT MAKE A POINT OF WELCOMING YUGOSLAV ATTENDANCE AT WARSAW, NOTING THAT THE LCY'S APPEARANCE "WAS MET WITH SATISFACTION" BY ALL. AND, SUITING STYLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO SUBSTANCE, IT QUOTES DELEGATES FROM NO FEWER THAN 14 DIFFERENT PARTIES -- ALL THE IMPORTANT PARTIES IN AND OUT OF POERS, WITH ONE MAJOR EXCEPTION.

5. THE EXCEPTION IS ROMANIA, AND THE OMISSION IS UNDOUBTELDY NOT ACCIDENTAL. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE OTHER CLUSE IN THE PRAVDA COMMENTARY THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOT FULLY PREPARED TO PAPER OVER DIFFERENCES OR TO SACRIFICE

OBJECTIVES. FOR ALL THE EMPHASIS ON DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURE, THERE IS ALSO GREAT STRESS ON COORDINATION. THE CPSU HAS BEEN GUIDED, SAYS PRAVDA, BY THE AIM "OF STRENGTHENING BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS THE UNITY AND COHESION OF THE WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT." AND PANOMAREV'S TOUGH LANGUAGE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROGRAMMATIC DOCUMENT IS REPEATED. FINALLY, THERE IS A PASSAGE CRITICIZING THE CONCEPT OF "EUROCENTRISM" -- AN INDICATION THAT THE SOVIETS ARE STILL LOOKING AHEAD TO AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST CONFERENCE AND MAY EVEN BE HOPING TO DRAG THE CHINESE ISSUE INTO THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE AT ONE STAGE OR ANOTHER.

6. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO USNATO'S DRAWING ON THIS ANALYSIS.
STOESSEL

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